ATTACHMENT

EXPLANATORY

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A ceramic honeycomb structure comprising a ceramic honeycomb body comprising axial grooves on its periphery and cell walls constituting a larger number of flow paths inside said grooves, and a peripheral wall layer covering said grooves, wherein there are stress release portions at least partially ~~in said peripheral wall layer and/or~~ between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves.

2. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 1, which further has stress release portions at least partially in said peripheral wall layer.

~~2~~3. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim ~~1~~2, wherein said stress release portions are voids provided in said peripheral wall layer such that they are open on a periphery thereof.

~~3~~4. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim ~~2~~3, wherein the total length of said voids is equal to or larger than the full length of said ceramic honeycomb structure.

4~~5~~. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim ~~2~~3, wherein voids provided in said peripheral wall layer are in the form of a slit.

~~5~~6. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim ~~2~~3, wherein voids provided in said peripheral wall layer are cracks in said peripheral wall layer.

~~6~~7. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein said stress release portions are voids provided between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves.

~~7~~8. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim ~~6~~7, wherein the number of grooves having said voids between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves is 5% or more of the number of the total grooves.

9. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 7, wherein the total length of a contact portion of the grooves with the peripheral wall layer is 95% or less based on the total length of the grooves.

10. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 2, wherein said stress release portions are voids provided between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves.

11. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 10, wherein the number of grooves having said voids between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves is 5% or more of the number of the total grooves.

~~8~~12. (currently amended): A ceramic honeycomb structure comprising a ceramic honeycomb body comprising axial grooves on its periphery and cell walls constituting a larger number of flow paths inside said grooves, and a peripheral wall layer covering said grooves, wherein the thermal expansion coefficient of said peripheral wall layer is smaller than those of said cell walls

in a radial direction,
wherein said peripheral wall layer has a composition comprising 100 parts by mass of amorphous silica and 2 to 35 parts by mass of an amorphous oxide matrix and said amorphous silica has a thermal expansion coefficient of 10.0 $\times 10^{-7}$/°C or less.

913. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 812, comprising stress release portions at least partially ~~in said peripheral wall layer and/or~~ between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves.

Claims 10-13: Canceled.

14. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 913, wherein said stress release portions are voids provided between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves.

15. (previously presented): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 14, wherein the number of grooves having said voids between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves is 5% or more of the number of the total grooves.

16. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 14, wherein the total length of a contact portion of the grooves with the peripheral wall layer is 95% or less based on the total length of the grooves.

~~16~~17. (currently amended): A ceramic honeycomb structure comprising a

ceramic honeycomb body comprising axial grooves on its periphery and cell walls constituting a larger number of flow paths inside said grooves, and a peripheral wall layer covering said grooves, said ceramic honeycomb body being obtained by removing a peripheral wall and nearby cell walls before firing.

18. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 17, wherein said peripheral wall layer has a composition comprising 100 parts by mass of amorphous silica and 2 to 35 parts by mass of an amorphous oxide matrix and said amorphous silica has a thermal expansion coefficient of 10.0 $\times 10^{-7}$/°C or less.

19. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 17, wherein there are stress release portions at least partially between said peripheral wall layer and said grooves.

20. (new): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 19, which further has stress release portions at least partially in said peripheral wall layer.

~~17~~21. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral wall layer is formed before or after firing said ceramic honeycomb body.

~~18~~22. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim ~~17~~21, wherein said ceramic honeycomb structure has an isostatic strength of 1.5 MPa or more.

23. (new): A particulates-capturing filter using a ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 1.

24. (new): A particulates-capturing filter using a ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 7.

~~19~~25. (currently amended): The ceramic honeycomb structure according to any one of claims 1 to ~~18~~24, wherein said cell walls of said ceramic honeycomb structure have a porosity of 50 to 80% and an average pore size of 10 to 50 μm.

~~20~~26. (currently amended): A ceramic honeycomb structure comprising a ceramic honeycomb body comprising axial grooves on its periphery and cell walls constituting a larger number of flow paths inside said grooves, and a peripheral wall layer covering said grooves, wherein said peripheral wall layer is made of a mixture comprising amorphous silica particles and an amorphous oxide matrix, and wherein said amorphous oxide matrix is formed from colloidal silica and/or colloidal alumina, and wherein said peripheral wall layer has a composition comprising 100 parts by mass of amorphous silica and 2 to 35 parts by mass of an amorphous oxide matrix and said amorphous silica has a thermal expansion coefficient of 10.0 $\times 10^{-7}$/°C or less,.

~~21.~~ (canceled). ~~The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 20, wherein said amorphous oxide matrix is formed from colloidal silica and/or colloidal alumina.~~

~~22.~~ (canceled). ~~The ceramic honeycomb structure according to claim 20, wherein said peripheral wall layer has a composition comprising 100 parts by mass of amorphous silica particles and 2 to 35 parts by mass of an amorphous oxide matrix.~~

Claims 23-26: Withdrawn.

27. (currently amended): A coating material for forming a peripheral wall layer of a ceramic honeycomb structure, comprising 100 parts by mass of amorphous silica ~~particles~~ and 2 to 35 parts by mass (on a solid basis) of colloidal silica and/or colloidal alumina, wherein said amorphous silica has a thermal expansion coefficient of 10.0×10^{-7}/°C or less, an average particle size of 1 to 100 μm and an aspect ratio of 10 or less.